

WELCOME TO PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE!

On May 8, 1846, you would have heard the thunder of cannon and seen soldiers from the United States and Mexico fighting the first battle of the U.S.-Mexican War.

Today, instead of soldiers and cannon, you might hear a bird singing or see a coyote run across the prairie. These fields are preserved as the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site. This park is truly a living monument to the soldiers who fought here so many years ago.

If **YOU** would like to be a Junior Ranger for Palo Alto Battlefield NHS, complete the following activities. (Parents/guardians may assist.)

Ages 4-7: Complete Activities #1, #4, #6, and #7.
(Want to do more? Go for it!)

Ages 8 + Up: Complete Activities #2, #3, #5, #6, and #7. (Want to do more? Go for it!)

TWO EASY STEPS!

1. Print the activity pages.
2. When you're done, mail the pages to:
Palo Alto Battlefield NHS
ATTN: Jr. Ranger Program
1623 Central Blvd., Rm. 213
Brownsville, TX 78520
3. Look in the mail for your very own Junior Ranger badge!

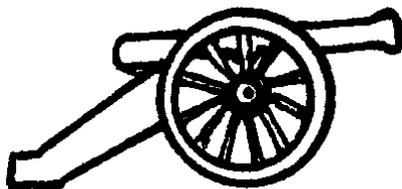


ACTIVITY #1

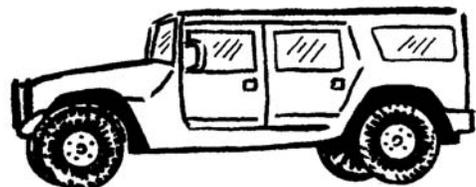
No Cars! No TVs! It's the world in 1846!

Can you match the items from 1846 to those we use in the 21st century?

1846



21st CENTURY



ACTIVITY #2—Part 1

In 1846, the United States and Mexico went to war. Read these interviews with the Presidents and Generals of the U.S. and Mexico and answer the questions in Part 2.

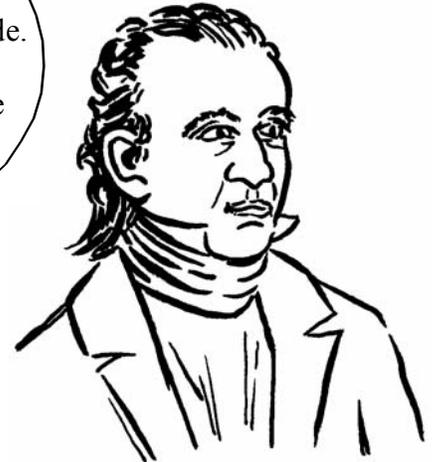
MEET THE PRESIDENTS

Texas is part of Mexico. The boundary of Texas is and has always been the Nueces River.



**Mexican President
Mariano Paredes**

Texas belongs to the United States and its border is the Rio Grande. Mexico crossed this border and attacked the United States on our own territory.



**US President
James Polk**

AND THE GENERALS

When the US Army crossed the Nueces River and marched into Mexican territory, the United States forced us to go to war.



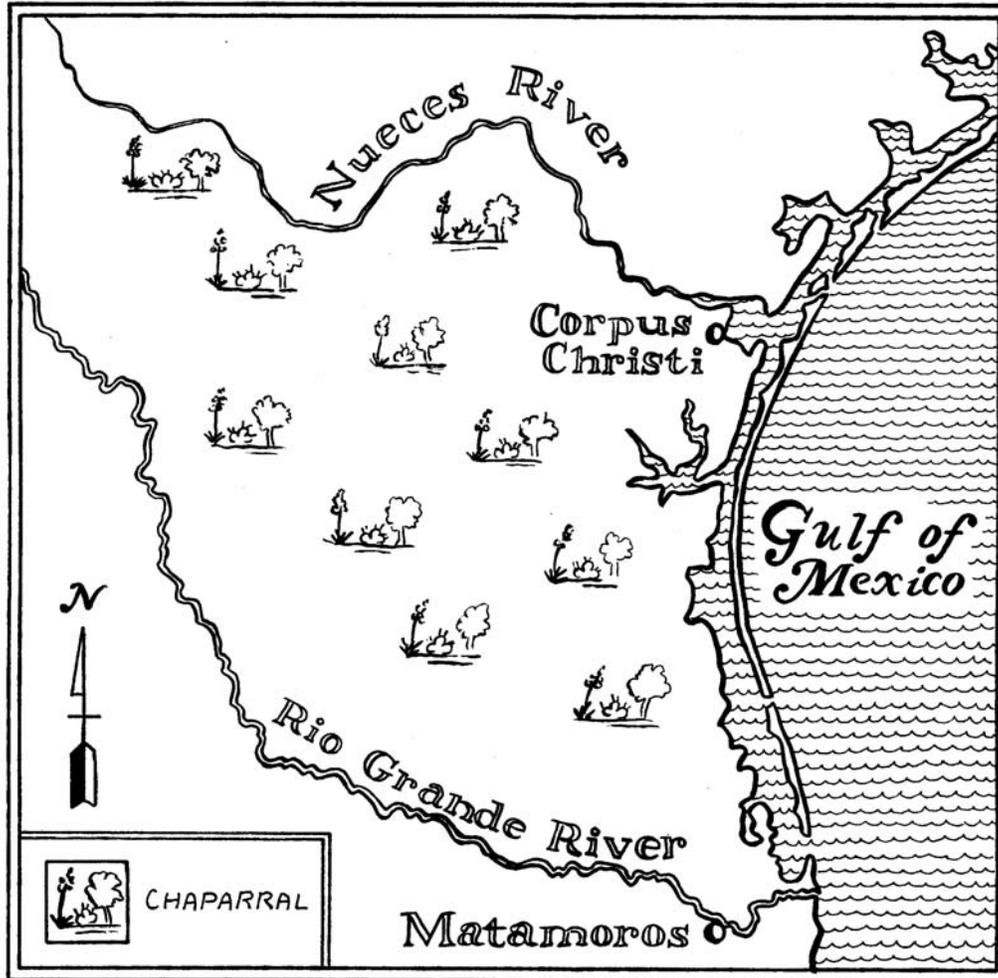
**Mexican General
Mariano Arista**

President Polk sent me to the Rio Grande to defend this river as the boundary of the United States.



**US General
Zachary Taylor**

ACTIVITY #2—Part 2



On May 8, 1846, the Battle of Palo Alto started the US-Mexican War.
Use the information from the Presidents and Generals to answer these questions.

1. The Mexican President Paredes said the _____ was the boundary of Texas.
Color this river red.
2. The U.S. President Polk said the _____ was the boundary of Texas.
Color this river blue.
3. Color the area between the two rivers red. This land is called a disputed territory because both the United States and Mexico claimed that this land was theirs.
4. According to the Mexican General Arista, _____ started the war. How?

5. According to the U.S. President Polk, _____ started the war. How?

ACTIVITY #3—Part 1

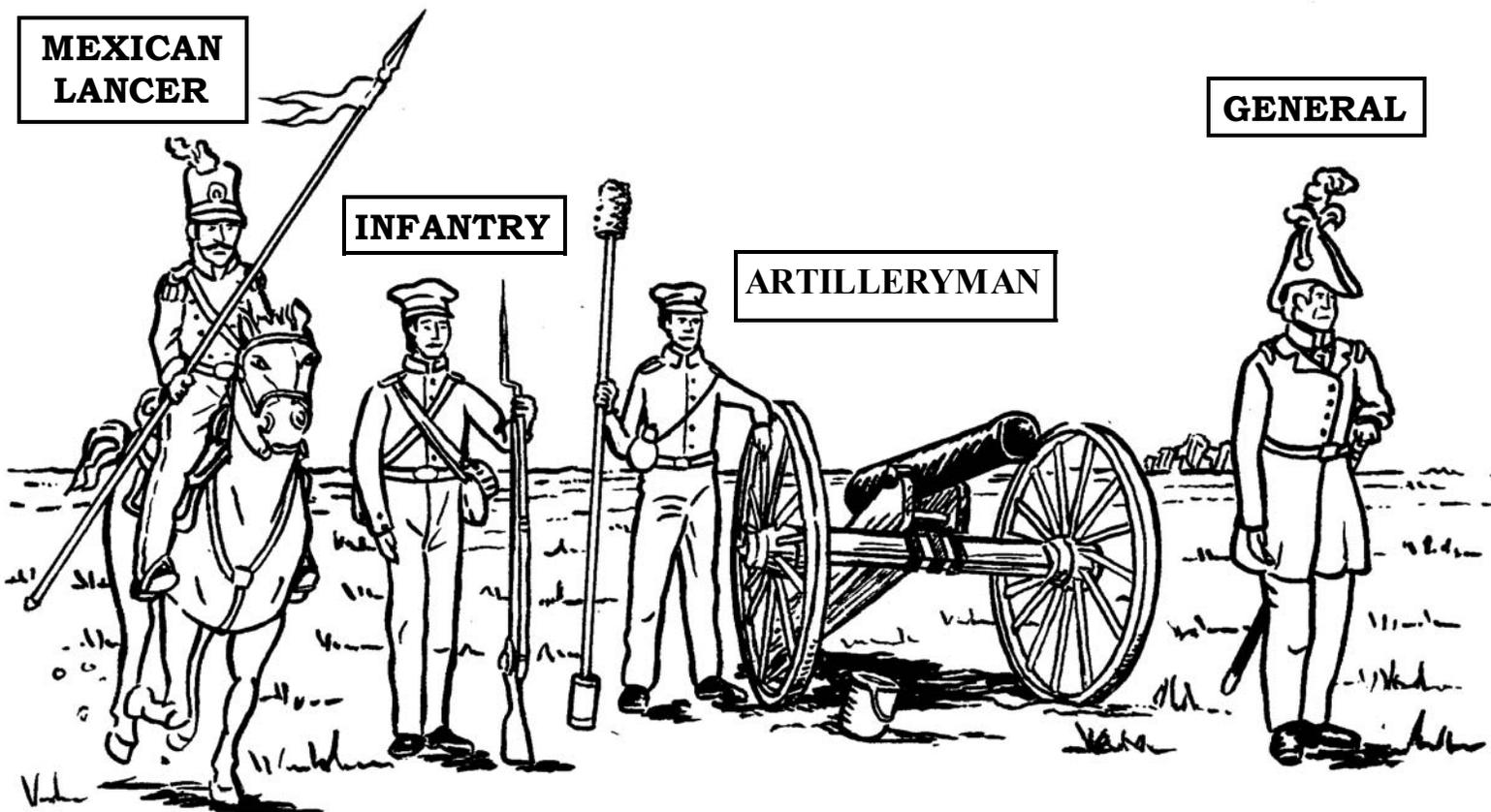
**Different Soldiers have
Print Parts 1 & 2 and hold them next to each other.**

The _____ was in charge of the army and decided how to fight a battle.

Charge! The _____ fought on horseback and could speed across a field. The US army had dragoons that fought on horseback or on foot.

The _____ drew battle maps, designed forts, and helped make battle plans.

The _____ was often called a foot soldier because he marched and fought on foot.



ACTIVITY #3—Part 2

Different Jobs!

Fill in the blanks to learn more!

Sick and hurt soldiers were brought to the _____.

Boom! Loading, aiming, and firing the cannon was part of the _____'s job.

A _____ cooked and cleaned for the soldiers and helped tend to the wounded.

Teams of horse and oxen pulled supplies and cannon. The _____ was in charge of these animals.

ENGINEER

TEAMSTER

SURGEON

CAMP WOMAN



ACTIVITY #4—Part 1

Print Parts 1 & 2 and
Many animals live in the resacas, prairies, and chaparral

Butterfly

Roseate Spoonbill

Harris Hawk

Rabbit

Long-Billed Curlew

Javelina



ACTIVITY #4—Part 2

hold them next to each other.

at Palo Alto. Circle the animals you can find.

Bobcat

Ocelot

Rattlesnake

Coyote

Texas Horned Lizard



ACTIVITY #5—Part 1

Print Parts 1 & 2 and
Jobs are available in National Parks across the



SUPERINTENDENT
Head of the park
JOB # _____



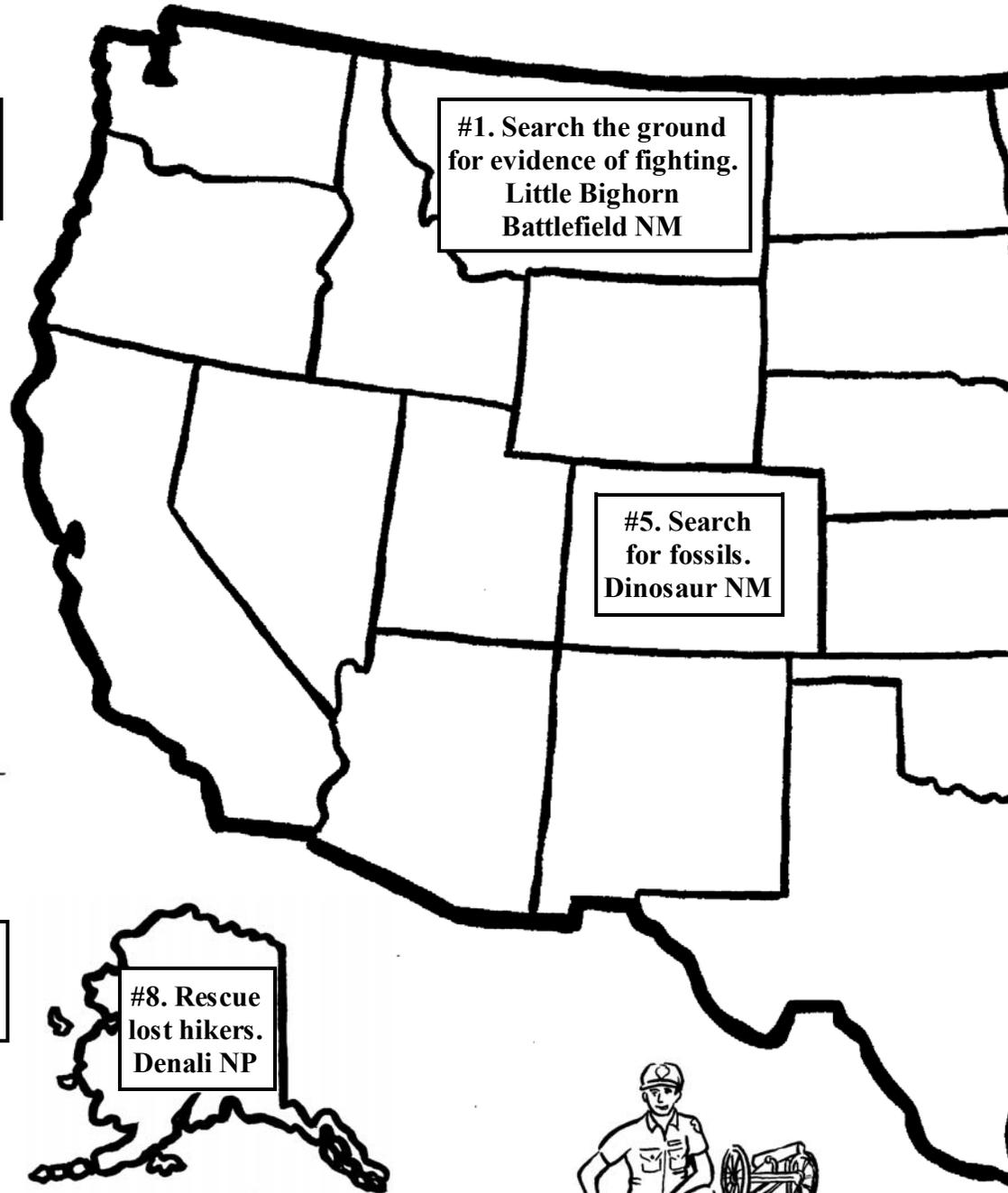
ADMINISTRATION
Manages money and
paperwork
JOB # _____



GEOLOGIST
Studies rocks and fossils
JOB # _____



HISTORIAN
Studies documents to
discover history
JOB # _____



#1. Search the ground
for evidence of fighting.
Little Bighorn
Battlefield NM

#5. Search
for fossils.
Dinosaur NM

#8. Rescue
lost hikers.
Denali NP



ARCHEOLOGIST
Studies remains from the past
JOB # _____

ACTIVITY #5—Part 2

hold them next to each other.
country. Can you help these people find jobs?

#2. Study bald eagles.
Voyageurs NP

#3. Manage money.
Cuyahoga NRA

#4. Give tours.
Statue of Liberty NM



INTERPRETER
Teaches visitors about
the park's importance
JOB # _____



MAINTENANCE
Builds trails and makes repairs
JOB # _____

#6. Fix
crumbling
walls.
San Antonio
Missions
NHP

#9. Be the
head manager.
Cape Hatteras
NS



PROTECTION
Keeps the park and visitors safe
JOB # _____

#7. Read letters from
US and Mexican soldiers.
Palo Alto Battlefield NHS



BIOLOGIST
Studies plants and animals
JOB # _____

ACTIVITY #6—Part 1

Use the information in Part I to help you complete Part 2.

THE ARROWHEAD SYMBOL OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Each picture in the **ARROWHEAD** represents the many wonders of National Parks.

BUFFALO = Animals live in National Parks.

SEQUOIA TREE = Many different plants grow in National Parks.

LAKE = Water in parks is for animals, plants, and visitors to fish, swim, and go boating.

MOUNTAINS = National Parks are beautiful places to walk, hike, and visit.

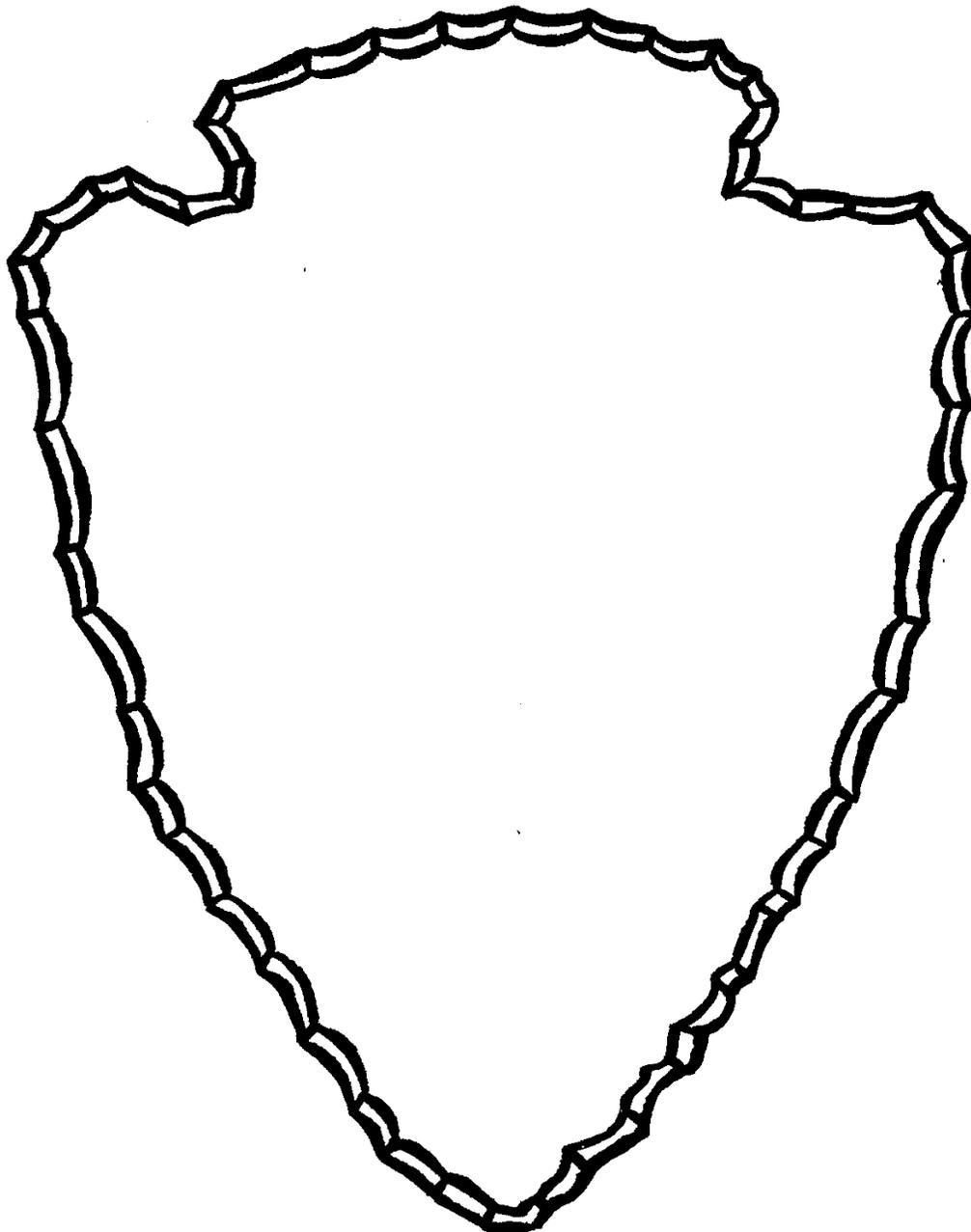
ARROWHEAD = The shape of the Arrowhead represents history and culture.

ACTIVITY #6—Part 2

BUFFALO don't roam at Palo Alto.
No **SEQUOIA TREES** here!
Water at Palo Alto is found in the resacas not **LAKES**.
See any **MOUNTAINS**?
Palo Alto has lots of **HISTORY**!

DRAW AN ARROWHEAD FOR PALO ALTO.

Be sure to include animals, plants, water, beauty, and history.



ACTIVITY #7

IT'S STILL A BATTLEFIELD!

If you visit Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site, it's very important to stay on the trail.

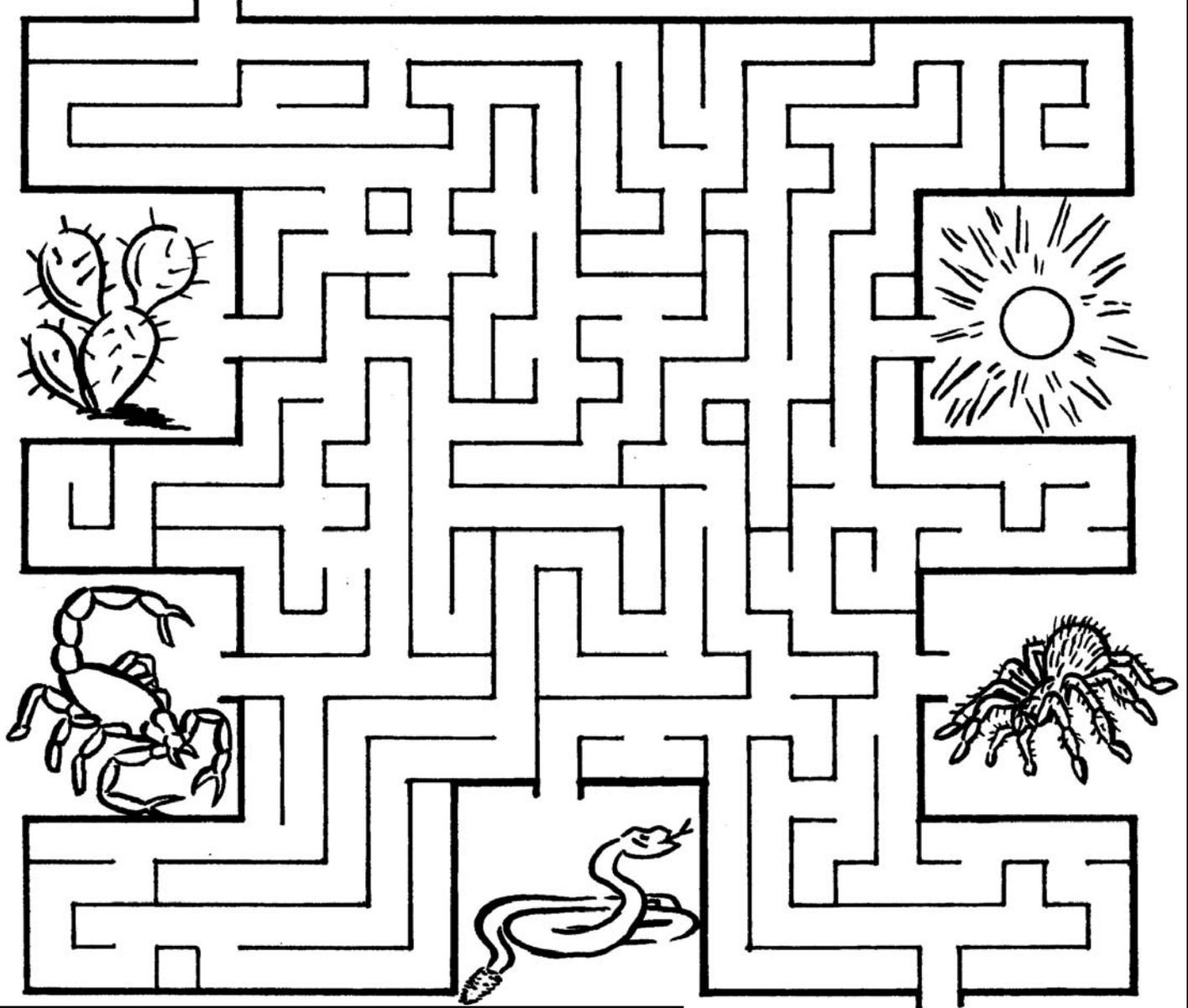
Can you find your way to the Visitor Center to return your Junior Ranger booklet?

Please write your name and address and we will send you a Junior Ranger Badge!

Name: _____ Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

START 



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